

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Consett U.D.C.

Contributors

Consett (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bzy3y9s5>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

12-355757
COR 17

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

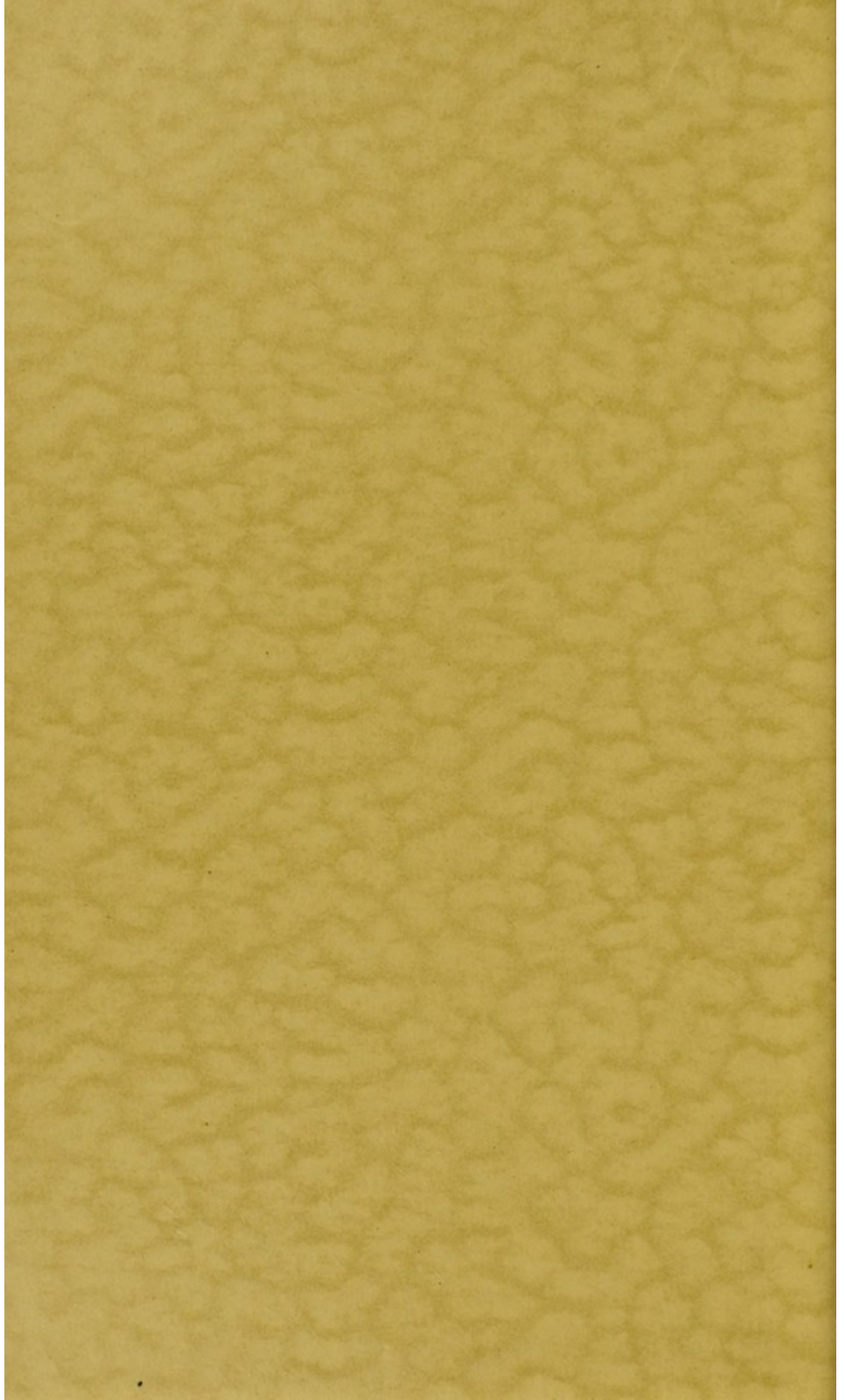
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR

1956

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.



CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

INDEX OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. Environmental Circumstances and General Statistics ...	4
II. Health Services in the Area	11
III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	19
IV. Inspection and Supervision of Food	25
V. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases	29
VI. Annual Report of Rainfall, etc.	38
Appendices :—	
A. Trend of Vital Statistics since 1937	39
B. Analysis of notified and confirmed cases of Notifiable Diseases	40
C. Details of Sewage Disposal Works in the Urban Area ...	41
D. & Statistics in relation to Prevention of Damage by Pests	
E. Act	42-43
F. Statistics in relation to Factory Inspections	43
G. Details of Food Catering, Manufacturing and Retail Premises	44
H. Meat Inspection—Carcases Inspected and Condemned ...	45

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Medomsley Road,
Consett,
Co. Durham.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report of the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year 1956.

It has been a satisfactory year with little significant change in the health statistics, no confirmed case of Diphtheria and a reduction in the number of notifiable diseases particularly Measles. To the list of diseases against which inoculations can be given has been added Poliomyelitis and a scheme for the vaccination of eligible children was initiated during the year. The ante-natal, midwifery and maternity services were reviewed during meetings of Representatives of Hospitals, Local Health Authority and General Practitioners Services and observations were forwarded to the Ministry.

Regular surveys and inspections of sub-standard property were made in order to keep abreast of the Council's policy of increasing considerably the allocation of new council houses for replacement purposes. With the introduction of new powers and enforceable standards of hygiene under the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations, 1955, every effort was made by the Staff of the Department to ensure that the provisions were implemented as soon as possible.

The liaison both with the General Medical Practitioners and the Hospital Authorities has continued and for the sake of completeness, I have included some details of these services.

Finally, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement and support and the Staff of the Department for their assistance and enthusiasm.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)	10,042
Population (Estimated)	38,770
(i) Estimated number of children :—	
Under 5 years	3,014
5-14 years	6,150
Marriages in the Area during 1956 (Estimated)	319
Number of Inhabited houses	11,450
(i) Number of Aged Miners' Homes	56
(ii) Number of Council Aged Persons' Homes	219
(iii) Number of Council houses	3,137
(iv) Number of Houses and Shops combined	146
(v) Number of Lock-up Shops	301
(vi) Number of Occupied Houses under Closing or Demolition Orders	21
(vii) Estimated number of Houses unfit for human habitation	376
Rateable Value, April 1st, 1956	£404,043
Net Product of a Penny Rate April 1st, 1956	£1,550

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Iron and Steel Manufacture, etc.	5,115	353	5,468
(ii) Mining	4,014	80	4,094
(iii) Building, Brick Manufacture	1,221	88	1,309
(iv) Professional Services (Medicine, Education)	291	1,077*	1,368
(v) Distributive	290	497	787
(vi) Transport (Road, Rail, Haulage)	512	172	684
(vii) Chemicals, Bye-products, Coke Tar	371	16	387
(viii) Vehicle building and Maintenance	244	27	271
(ix) Catering, Baking, etc.	70	250	320
(x) National & Local Government	310	57	367
(xi) Textile	8	146	154
(xii) Other Industries	573	208	781
	<u>13,019</u>	<u>2,971</u>	<u>15,990</u>

* Includes hospital domestic staff.

UNEMPLOYED AND DISABLED

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Employable Persons out of work at the end of 1956	81	70	151
(ii) Persons registered as Disabled	657	67	724
(iii) Percentage of Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register	5.6	17.9	
(iv) Disabled persons trained	5	1	6
(v) No. of persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1956	5	2	7
(vi) No. of T.B. persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1956	—	1	1
(vii) Tuberculosis persons trained during 1956	1	1	2
(viii) No. of Registered Blind Persons			66

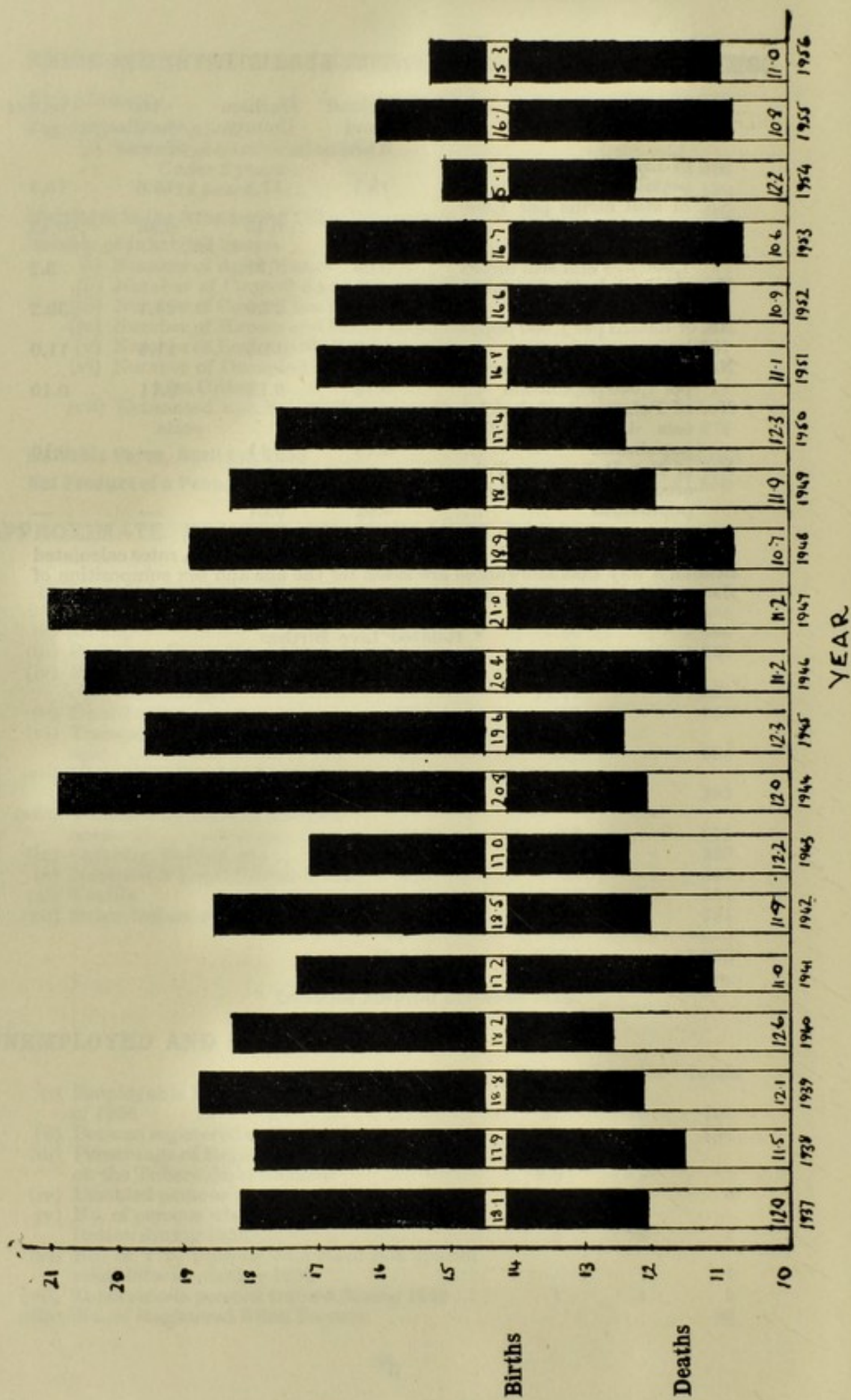
COMPARATIVE RATES

	England and Wales	Durham County	160 Smaller Towns	Consett
No. of Live Births per 1,000 population	15.7	17.8	15.6	15.3
No. of still births per 1,000 population	0.36	0.45	0.36	0.43
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	0.56	1.31	—	3.2
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 live births	23.8*	27.0	24.1	30.2
No. of deaths per 1,000 population	11.7	11.3	11.6	11.0
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.12	0.13	0.11	0.10
No. of Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.10	0.11	—	0.10
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.02	0.01	—	—

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, i.e., rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 15.1 and 13.8 respectively.

* Related Live Births.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION SINCE THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE PRESENT URBAN AREA



DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

(See Appendix A)

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate... ..	306	275	581
Illegitimate	8	7	15
	314	282	596
(b) Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate... ..	7	9	16
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	7	10	17

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population	0.43	0.66	0.46	0.38	0.33	0.30	0.38	0.43	0.43
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population	19.4	18.3	17.9	17.2	16.9	17.0	15.5	16.6	15.8
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	22.8	35.4	25.6	22.2	19.7	18.1	24.9	26.3	26.1

During the year there were 17 still births, the same number as in the previous year.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Deaths during year	234	196	430
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ...	—	2	2

(a) Infant Deaths

The number of infant deaths for the year was 18. Thirteen of these occurred within the first week of life.

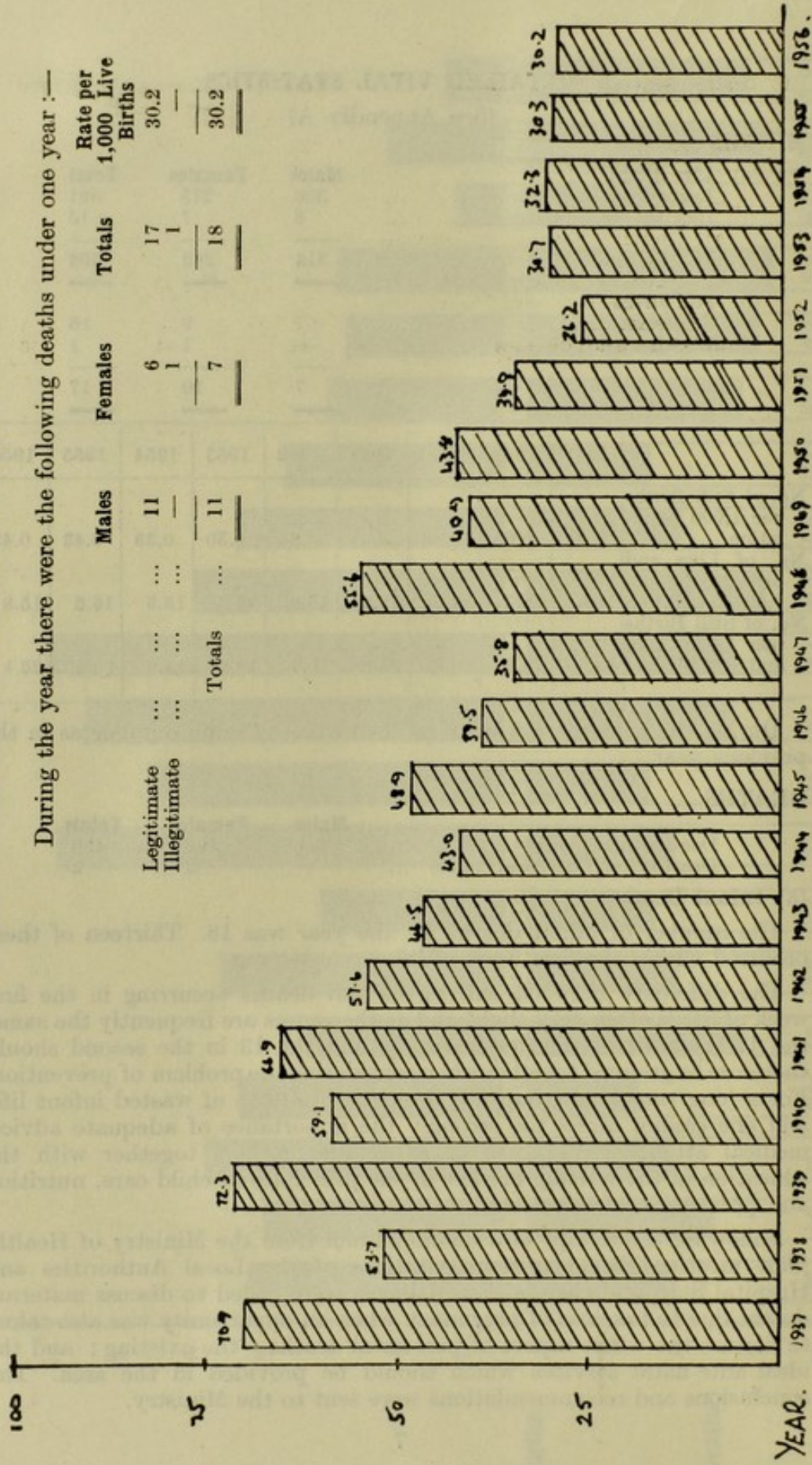
The difference between still births and deaths occurring in the first week of life is often very slight and as the causes are frequently the same, the 17 recorded in the first category and the 13 in the second should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has been the hardcore of wasted infant life, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice, medical attention and care of expectant mothers together with the education of the nursing mother in the principles of child care, nutrition and prevention of infections.

Following the receipt of a memorandum from the Ministry of Health, joint meetings between representatives of the Local Authorities and Hospital Staff and General Practitioners were called to discuss maternal deaths due to toxemia of pregnancy when an opportunity was also taken to discuss the whole aspect of peri-natal deaths; the existing; and the ideal ante-natal services which should be provided in the area. The conclusions and recommendations were sent to the Ministry.

INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS SINCE 1937

During the year there were the following deaths under one year :—

	Males	Females	Totals	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate	11	6	17	30.2
Illegitimate	...	1	1	—
Totals	11	7	18	30.2



(b) Deaths (General)	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES	234	196	430
1. Cardio vascular :—			
(a) Vascular lesions of nervous system	42	45	87
(b) Coronary disease	46	23	69
(c) Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
(d) Other heart diseases	22	34	56
(e) Other circulatory diseases	7	8	15
Totals	<u>119</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>233</u>
2. Chest Diseases :—			
(a) Pneumonia	12	4	16
(b) Bronchitis	11	—	11
(c) Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1	5
Totals... ..	<u>27</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>32</u>
3. Cancer :—			
(a) Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	15	3	18
(b) Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	—	10
(c) Malignant Neoplasm, breast ...	—	8	8
(d) Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ...	—	3	3
(e) Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	28	19	47
Totals	<u>53</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>86</u>
4. Tuberculosis—all forms	4	—	4
5. Influenza	—	4	4
6. Syphilitic diseases	3	1	4
7. Leukaemia	1	1	2
8. Diabetes	1	3	4
9. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—	3
10. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
11. Congenital Malformations	3	2	5
12. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	2	2
13. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	26	38
14. Accidents	4	4	8
15. Suicide	1	1	2

The main causes of death were disease of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Pneumonia and Bronchitis in that order.

Until the last century the toll exacted by acute and chronic infections and particularly Tuberculosis, was so great that relatively few people survived beyond middle life but so effective have been the health and social advances of the past 100 years that we can now expect many more years of life. We are however now being confronted with a higher incidence of different types of disease particularly those resulting from the wear and tear of life. Again this year the steady increase in the number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis, particularly in males has been maintained while additional deaths from Cancer have also been recorded.

Last year I referred to the accumulating evidence of the association between smoking and Cancer of the Lung. Research work on this subject has continued and now at the time of writing this report, the Medical Research Council has published a further report and has just advised the Government that a ^{causal} ~~casual~~ connection exists between tobacco smoking and Lung Cancer. Their main conclusions are as follows :—

- (1) Only a relatively small proportion of the great increase in deaths from Lung Cancer in the last 25 years can be attributed to specific industrial hazards.
- (2) A proportion of causes, the exact extent of which cannot yet be defined, may be due to atmospheric pollution.
- (3) The major part of the increase in Carcinoma of the Lung in this and other countries is associated with tobacco smoking particularly in the form of cigarettes and that the most reasonable interpretation is that the relationship is one of direct cause and effect.
- (4) Several carcinogenic substances in tobacco smoke have been identified.

A number of research workers have also collected evidence that other diseases are associated with, and possibly in part caused by, tobacco smoking. These diseases include Respiratory Tuberculosis in adults, Coronary Thrombosis, Cancer of the Mouth, Oropharynx and Larynx, and Chronic Bronchitis.

These hazards to life and health are undeniable and it is to be left to Local Authorities to arrange the necessary publicity. Personal advice at schools and by the General Practitioner would seem to be essential and until some way of making this social habit safe has been discovered, in addition to other measures to be adopted, it has been suggested that prohibition of smoking in cinemas and other public places might also make a contribution.

During the year there were eight accidents causing death, six occurred in the home (five of which were in people over the age of 65 years), while two occurred at work.

II. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural District :

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. WALTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.INST.R.A., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

W. TELFORD, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate. (Terminated his appointment 14th July, 1956).

T. E. HODGSON, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

C. E. DAVISON, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

Rodent Officer and Market Inspector :

S. ROBINSON.

Clerical Staff :

MISS P. E. BARROW, MRS. E. WINTER, MISS R. MAUDLIN (Terminated her appointment 30th June, 1956), D. HUBBICK (Appointed 7th August, 1956).

2. Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newcastle General Hospital.

All specimens for animal inoculation are sent to the laboratory attached to the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The service of the Public Health Laboratory has continued to be used extensively by General Practitioners.

Year	Specimens Submitted	Positive
1947	111	32
1948	54	18
1949	71	14
1950	99	35
1951	64	22
1952	431	83
1953	1,325	484
1954	773	175
1955	589	81
1956	584	83

The following table gives particulars of specimens sent in by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the Area for examination during the year. It is significant that over the last few years there has been a change in interest and emphasis from throat infections to gastro-intestinal infections.

Bacteriological Examinations.

	Number of Specimens Submitted	Positive
Faeces :		
(a) Enteric Fever	192	—
(b) Dysentery		6
(c) Food Poisoning		35
(d) Other Organisms... ..		5
Swabs (Throat Nasal and Ear) :		
(a) Diphtheria	—	—
(b) Haemolytic Streptococci		—
(c) Other Organisms... ..		—
Sputum for Tuberculosis	388	36
Miscellaneous	4	1
Totals	584	83

39 Water and 59 Ice Cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

3. Local Health Authority Services

While a scheme adopted by the County Council in 1948 and approved by the Minister divided the Administrative County into Areas—Lanchester Rural, Consett and Stanley Urban Districts comprising No. 3 Area—for each of which an Area Health Sub-Committee was appointed, all day-to-day administration of these County Services apart from immunisation schemes, is in fact carried out at County Headquarters. The duties and responsibilities of the Committee are few and Area Medical Officers of Health merely deputise for the County Medical Officer of Health at the quarterly meetings of the Area Sub-Committees.

The County Medical Officer of Health has provided the statistics relating to the personal health services, for inclusion in this report.

(a) Health Centres

There is no immediate prospect of a health centre being built in the district but the site is to be ear-marked for this purpose in the Town Map now in the course of preparation.

(b) Clinics

In order to reduce the number of maternal and peri-natal deaths, there is, at the moment, considerable discussion about the ideal services which should be provided to expectant and nursing mothers. That adequate ante- and post-natal services are necessary is agreed by all, but there is some feeling that there might be better co-ordination or redistribution of the services provided by hospitals, general practitioners and Local Health Authority Clinics.

Views on this subject were thoroughly aired at a meeting convened at Shotley Bridge Hospital, final conclusions and recommendations being sent up to the Ministry of Health.

(i) *Birth Control*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Friday mornings.

(ii) *Ante-Natal*

Clinics are held as follows :—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Tuesdays weekly.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

(iii) *Post-Natal*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Friday mornings.

(iv) *Child Welfare*

Child Welfare Clinics have a dual medical and educational function, the emphasis at present being on (i) periodic medical supervision of all children from the age of one to five years, when special attention is given to the early detection of defects such as deafness, speech problems, spasticity, squint and dental caries ; (ii) prophylaxis against infectious diseases ; and (iii) individual and group education of parents in child care. Included in this health education programme is accident prevention, advice on behaviour difficulties with special consideration given to premature babies, illegitimate, deprived or neglected infants and members of problem families. These services should supplement and not replace the General Practitioners' Service.

Clinics are held as follows :—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Fridays all day.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL, THE GROVE, CONSETT—Alternate Wednesdays.

(v) *Artificial Sunlight*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons weekly.

(vi) *Immunisation*

Immunisation has been carried out at :—

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics throughout the Area and
- (b) By General Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents.

(c) **Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services**

These services have been under the direct administration of the County Council since 1st April, 1954, when the employees of the County Nursing Association were transferred to the County Council's employ. All nursing requisites are held by the Central Store, Durham, and are sent out to various patients when requests are received.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

	Cases	Visits
Medical	267	11,300
Surgical	177	5,590
Tuberculosis	16	974
Casual	—	327
Totals	460	18,191*

* Included in these totals are 149 cases 65 years and over and 21 cases five years and under, with visits 11,626 and 336 respectively.

The six County Midwives also carried out the following work :—

	Cases Attended
Maternity and Midwifery	348

(d) **Health Visitor Service**

There are five Health Visitors in the Consett Urban District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year :—

Maternity and Child Welfare	8,924
Tuberculosis	1,205
Mental Deficiency	298
Schools	534
General Health	9
Aged People	29

Unfortunately at present, the services of the Health Visitors are seldom used by the General Practitioners.

(e) **Ambulance Service**

The Urban District is served by the County Ambulance Depot situated at Villa Real, Consett. The establishment of personnel and vehicles at this depot is as follows :—

Driver Attendants	18
Ambulances	6

The depot comes within the area served by the Consett Ambulance Control which has a staff of four clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken in the Consett area during the year 1956 :—

Journeys Undertaken	Cases carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
4,021	3,146	14,976	18,122	127,294

It should be noted that the conveyance of cases actually resident in the Urban District is not restricted to the Consett Depot but is undertaken by the unit which is most convenient at any given time.

Requests for ambulances are made to the Consett Ambulance Control (Telephone Consett 411).

(f) Prevention of Illness—Care and Aftercare

There are no voluntary District Care Committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. As with the other County Services all day to day administration is done centrally.

Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the home nurse if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

(g) Domestic Help Service

This service has been used even more extensively during the year than previously.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household.

At the beginning of January, 1956, 222 cases in this district were being served by a Home Help. There were 63 new cases during the year and of the total of 285 receiving the service, 254 were old age pensioners 25 were suffering from sickness, one from Tuberculosis and there were five maternity cases.

(h) Occupation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children

A wing of the former I.D. Hospital at Villa Real converted in June, 1953, has continued to be used for mentally defective children excluded from School under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. Eight boys up to the age of 15 and 12 girls up to the age of 21 from the North West of Durham travel daily to this centre. The Education Department have arranged from the onset provision of school meals and free milk to these pupils. From September, 1956, a special bus commenced to collect pupils each morning and return them to their home each afternoon.

4. Hospital Services

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.

Maiden Law Hospital

At 31st December, 1956, the following number of beds were available :—

Ear, Nose and Throat	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis)	84
Total	108

Lee Hill Hospital

This Hospital, with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows :—

Orthopaedic	28
Mental	44
Chronic Sick	173
Part III Accommodation	62
Total	307

Shotley Bridge General Hospital

Out-patients facilities for all the Specialities exist at this Hospital. The 532 beds are allocated as follows :—

Surgical	121
Medical	98
Gynaecological	43
Orthopaedic	45
Paediatrics	4
Thoracic Surgery	114
Radiotherapy	50
Plastic Surgery	58
Total	533

Richard Murray Hospital

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

Patients in the Area suffering from infectious diseases were admitted to the Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Chest Clinic, Villa Real

This clinic, operating from the converted wing of the old Infectious Diseases Hospital, provides a full chest clinic service including screening, refills, B.C.G. vaccination and resettlement sessions as follows :—

Tuesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	Contacts of known cases of T.B.
Wednesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	—Males.
Wednesday afternoons—2 p.m. each week	Artificial Pneumo thorax and Pneumo peritoneum refill.
Friday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	Females.
Friday afternoons—2 p.m. each week	Children up to 16 years of age.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by Clinics outside the Area as follows :—

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Males and Females :—

Monday to Friday : 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon ; 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday : 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday (Emergency only) : 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Females : Monday and Thursday : 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Males : Monday : 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

5. Executive Council Service

There are 16 general medical practitioners, seven chemists and seven dentists operating in the urban district.

6. Old People and their Homes

Admissions to Local Health Authority Hospitals are arranged directly with the Welfare Department at Durham or occasionally, after reference to the District Health Departments,—an up-to-date waiting list for this accommodation being held locally.

In all during the year six persons needing care and attention were admitted, one to the Lanchester Hospital and five to hostels outside the district.

Work at a hostel to accommodate 38 old people in the Stanley Urban District has now been completed and when a similar hostel now in the planning stage, has been completed in the Consett Urban District it is hoped that this will avoid transferring old people out of the district away from relatives, friends and the countryside they know so well.

Elderly people retained in their own familiar surroundings with a sense of being still actively part of the community can often fend for themselves if given a little help. It is for this reason that a good home nursing service, together with domestic help through the home-help scheme, can play such an important part in keeping the aged and infirm out of hostels and hospitals. Increasing frailty makes old people liable to accident, therefore anything that can be done to house this group of the population in property where there are no unnecessary steps, no low fireplaces or lofty cupboards assists in the prevention or delay of the onset of disabilities.

It was necessary, however, to have four old people removed to the chronic sick wards at Lee Hill Hospital, in one case after obtaining a magistrate's order for her compulsory removal and detention. Once in hospital this lady settled down very nicely and there was no need to obtain an extension of the order.

A service of great value to the aged is that provided by a chiropodist and some assisted scheme in this Area would be a great boon, for frequently the disability suffered is out of all proportion to the actual foot trouble.

7. Health Education

Copies of the journal "Better Health" continue to be supplied to each school in the Area, the Members of the Health Committee, the various youth and other organisations, and for the waiting rooms of each General Practitioner's surgery. This journal, a very readable and interesting booklet, covers the whole field of health with particular reference from time to time to child health and nutrition, family matters, services provided by the local health authority, epidemiology, environmental and food hygiene, smoke abatement and home accidents. It has proved a popular and attractive means of promoting health education in the district. In addition, both the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself have continued to give a series of lectures to the nursing staff in Shotley Bridge Hospital.

At the two-day Annual Show, an opportunity was again taken of providing a display and film show on health subjects. On this occasion focus was on food hygiene and the prevention of food poisoning. In one large tent, the ideal food-store was displayed with all modern equipment, counters, refrigerated containers, etc., while in another section there were insect display cabinets. In the second tent continuous film shows on the same theme were shown.

8. Prevention of Damage by Pests

During the year 1,398 inspections were made to private dwellings, business premises, Local Authority's properties and agricultural premises. (See Appendix D).

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in April, 249 manholes were pre-baited and poisoned, and 64 were found to be infested. In the September treatment, 255 manholes were treated and 37 were found to be infested. Test-baiting of 167 manholes was carried out in September and eight were found to be infested.

Treatments to sewage disposal works and pump houses were also carried out during each maintenance treatment to the sewers and were found to be clear of infestation. (See Appendix E.).

Food shops and food preparation rooms and schools were dealt with because of rat and mice infestations. Where necessary owners were asked to carry out works of repair and rat-proofing to their premises.

9. Disinfestation

Forty-eight houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs, insects, beetles, etc.

10. Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year, one licence for the keeping of pet animals was issued and three routine inspections were carried out.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

(a) Apart from six now relying on springs, all houses in the Consett Urban District have a supply of mains water direct to each house. Most of the samples taken from these springs show fairly constant contamination and those who find it necessary to use these supplies are constantly warned to boil all water before it is used.

DETAILS OF SPRING SUPPLIES

Ward	No. of		Type of Supply				Method of Distribution				
	Houses	Occu- pants	Public	Private	Spring	Well	Carried	Gravi- tation Piped	Pumped	House Service	
										Inside	Out
Medomsley ...	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ebchester ...	1	5	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Consett South	2	4	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	1
Leadgate ...	2	4	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ...	6	16	—	6	6	—	3	3	—	2	4

Durham County Water Board provides a public water supply from a catchment area around Waskerley some seven miles from Consett; reservoirs are situated at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, while the filtration and chlorination of this upland surface water is done at Honey Hill, Waskerley.

During the year there was a steady residual of approximately 0.1 p.p.m. of chlorine in all the samples tested in the Health Department offices, while all the samples submitted for more detailed bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory.

An application has been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an order permitting the construction of a new large impounding reservoir in the Derwent Valley near Edmundbyers, and a public enquiry has been held to hear objections to this proposal.

This joint project by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company and the Durham County Water Board is an attempt to overcome the extreme shortage of water which occurs during drought periods.

The reservoir is expected to supply about twenty million gallons per day to Authorities, the Board taking a half share of this yield. Once this is completed, there will be a substantial surplus of water for many years to come, although it will not remove the immediate difficulties, for the project will take seven or eight years to complete.

Suggestions for using the River Derwent, Allensford, for bathing and swimming purposes were considered and nine samples of river water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. Results confirmed that the river just above this point was polluted with sewage and the Council were therefore advised not to encourage swimming or bathing

unless some scheme for filtering and chlorinating the water was carried out. Warning notices were erected at known bathing places along the lengths of this river from Lintz Ford to Allensford.

(b) Thirty-nine samples of water were forwarded to the Bacteriologist for examination. The results, graded in accordance with the Ministry of Health Report, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, 1949," are as follows :—

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Public Water Supply ...	4	—	—	—	4
Other Sources of Supply (Springs, Wells, etc.)	6	7	8	14	35
Totals	10	7	8	14	39

The Board laid the following lengths of main : 1,843 yards of 3" main, 559 yards of 4" main, 51 yards of 6" main and re-laid 630 yards of 12" main in Front Street, Consett, during the year 1956.

2. Drainage and Sewage

Sewer extensions have been carried out for the development of the various housing estates, and a new sewage works was commenced at Knitsley, Consett.

Appendix C indicates the number and sites of sewage works, also the number of properties draining there together with the population which they serve. It will be observed that both Westwood and Knitsley Sewage Works are overloaded.

3. Atmospheric Pollution

This is one of our great problems because of the unfortunate siting of one of the main industries, upon which the life of Consett depends, to the windward side of the town. The problems of atmospheric pollution, domestic as well as industrial, are of course ones which cannot be solved overnight and will entail expense and involve co-operation and sympathetic understanding from all those concerned. Over the year there has been very close and friendly contact between the Department and the Medical Officer of Consett Iron Company Limited, when opportunities were taken to discuss in detail the extent and the type of pollution caused by the industry. Five atmospheric deposit gauges and five sulphur dioxide recorders were sited around the town and the results for the last three years in the case of the former and the last two years in the case of the latter have been recorded. Pollution figures to be of any significance must be studied over long periods, nevertheless, indications based on the data already obtained, should be of considerable value once it is possible to implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

4. Sanitary Conveniences

During the year, two conversions of earth closets to W.Cs. were carried out.

The types of closet in use in the Council's Area are as follows :—

Water-closets	...	...	...	13,024
Ash-closets	...	...	...	112
Privy Middens	...	...	...	38

Of the remaining ash-closets and privy middens, 53 are in such a situation that it is impossible to connect them with a sewer, while 35 are part of slum properties which we hope will be demolished within the next few years.

5. Housing

(a) General

During the year, the following Council houses were erected :—

Locality	Two Bedroomed	Three Bedroomed	Aged Persons (Two Bedroomed)	Total
Delves Lane	4	34	—	38
Moorside	9	53	4	66
Ebchester	—	2	—	2
Cutlers Hall	—	1 flat above shop	—	1
	13	90	4	107

In addition, certificates of completion were issued in relation to 47 private houses.

Since the war a total of 1,927 houses have been completed in the district :—

	Council Houses	Private
1946	58	10
1947	238	16
1948	268	29
1949	195	12
1950	134	13
1951	109	12
1952	116	12
1953	146	29
1954	170	35
1955	136	35
1956	107	47
	<u>1,677</u>	<u>250</u>

Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants as provided for by Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, were brought into force on 1st January, 1955, and 33 preliminary applications were made during 1956. Of these, 18 made official application to this Authority, 16 of which were approved. Since inauguration of the scheme, 24 properties have been brought up to the necessary standard.

Medical Priority

The Council's practice of allocating a number of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases has continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of this allocation was granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances who had, in addition, one or more members suffering from Tuberculosis. This year five such families were re-housed.

(b) Insanitary Dwellings

Thirty-six demolition orders and 13 closing orders were made in respect of houses used for human habitation.

In January, 1949, a Resolution of the Council declaring Nos. 1-4 Chapel Street, and Nos. 29-34 Waltons Row, Blackhill, to be a clearance area was made and these were dealt with by compulsory purchase following a public enquiry.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	368
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,598
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	376
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	208

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	32
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(i) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(iii) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	36
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
(iv) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	13
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(v) Number of houses closed by Informal Action	Nil

6. Factories

One hundred and ninety-six visits were made to factories in which persons were employed. (See Appendix F).

Outworkers. Only one person was notified as being an outworker.

7. General Inspections

Analysis of inspections and notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	Inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served	No. of STATUTORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts...	1,598	256	5	183
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	10	1	—	1
Defective	45	42	—	38
Water Supply and Samples	45	16	—	2
Food Premises :				
Ice Cream Vehicles	19	5	—	5
Ice Cream Samples and Retailers	59	7	—	7
Grocer/General Dealers	329	85	—	72
Confectioners	47	15	—	13
Food Manufacturing Premises				
(Section 14)	189	39	—	36
Bakehouses	58	25	—	19
Greenfruit	31	25	—	19
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	74	18	—	18
Catering Establishments	56	4	—	4
Drainage	299	66	—	61
Private Slaughterhouses	2,073	6	—	7
Tents, Vans, Sheds	87	10	7	5
Factories and Workplaces	196	3	—	2
Keeping of Animals	28	1	—	1
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	311	270	—	270
Smoke Nuisances	56	1	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1,423	147	—	147
Cinemas	6	—	—	—
Pet Stores	3	1	—	1
Petroleum and Carbide	17	2	—	1
Interviews	108	—	—	—
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses	29	21	—	15
Dairies and Milk Shops	5	—	—	—
Market :				
Food Stalls	129	1	—	1
Fruiterers	95	12	—	10
Miscellaneous	136	68	—	68
Infectious Diseases	63	—	—	—
Marine Stores... ..	5	—	—	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers	48	6	—	6
Shops Act	20	—	—	—
Totals	7,697	1,153	12	1,012

IV. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) General

On 1st January, 1956, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation repealing the Amendment Act, 1954, and consolidating it together with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 and certain sections of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954 and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

There have been a number of changes in the law as they affect enforcing authorities including the power for a court on the application of the local authority to make an order disqualifying a person convicted of an offence against the Regulations from using premises as catering premises. Byelaws, licences, etc., made under the 1938 Act are however kept in force as if they were Regulations and Orders made under appropriate provisions of the 1955 Act, and this applies to our Food Handling Byelaws dated 4th December, 1950.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, made under Sections 13 and 23 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, added a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., where food is handled.

During the year visits were therefore made to the appropriate premises to implement these Regulations.

In order to get some uniformity in the interpretation and the application of these Regulations with regard to the preparation and serving of meals at the school kitchens and all school premises, a meeting was arranged and attended by the County Organiser for school meals, his two assistants who cover Consett, Lanchester and Stanley Areas, together with the Chief Public Health Inspectors for these districts and myself.

This meeting was found to be of considerable value. The County Organiser agreed to raise certain matters of doubt with the Director of Education and it was agreed that detailed inspection be made of every school scullery and kitchen in the three Areas. These latter inspections have now been completed in the Consett Area and an analysis of structural defects at the various premises together with suggestions and proposals for improvements were compiled for submission to the Divisional Education Officer, School Medical Officer for the County and the County Organiser for Meals service.

The new legislation was explained to the various traders and pamphlets prepared by the Central Council for Health Education were issued.

In subsequent inspections we found that on the whole our requests had been complied with, difficulties did exist where wood shops had no drainage or a supply of water but these traders agreed to retail only those foods which were in tins or pre-packed. Delivery vans carrying food for immediate consumption had installed supplies of hot water together with sinks, towels and soap. Fruit, confectionery and a provision stall on the Market Square have also complied by providing hot water and sinks. Further fried fish shops were registered and this position is now satisfactory.

To ensure adequate control over the sanitary conditions and management of slaughter-houses, the Council with Ministry approval adopted, without modification, new Model Byelaws prepared by the Ministry. These new byelaws came into operation on 18th March, 1957.

One thousand, one hundred and forty-nine inspections were made to premises in which food was manufactured, sold or distributed and on the whole conditions were found to be satisfactory. Appendix G shows the various types of food establishments visited and the circumstances found which warranted notices being served on the owner or occupier to conform with the appropriate Acts and Byelaws.

Cafes, snack bars, public houses, inns and hotels were visited regularly and works of improvement in respect of hot water supplies, sinks and better sanitary conveniences have been carried out.

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1956 :—

Distributors 75

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	
with regard to raw milk	3
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	2

(d) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	... 37
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Sterilised "	... 47
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) "	... .. 35
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	... .. 1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " T.T. (Pasteurised) "	... .. 1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Sterilised "	... .. 1

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Routine inspections (1,149) were carried out at all premises used for the manufacture, sale and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act :—

Ice Cream manufacture	8
Ice Cream Sale and Storage	130
Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Food	37
Preparation or Manufacture of Fish and Potatoes	16

In addition there are the following premises :

Bakehouses	12
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	15
Shops :—	
General Dealers	90
Grocers	43
Green Fruit	24
Confectionery	28
Wet Fish Shops	7
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	16
Licensed Premises (Hotels, Public Houses, Inns)	75
Miscellaneous	2

Appendix G gives the number of notices served and the defects remedied.

(f) **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948**

All premises used for the manufacture and storage of ice cream were regularly inspected and a very high standard of hygiene has been maintained. Periodic sampling provided the following satisfactory results.

Ice Cream Sample Results :—

	No. of Samples
Grade I	54
Grade II	1
Grade III	2
Grade IV	2
Total	59

(g) **Milk Sampling**

Six samples of milk were taken and the following results obtained :—

Type of Sample	Methylene Blue		Phos- phatase		Bio- logical		Tur- bidity	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested	3							
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1		1					
Pasteurised	1		1					
Sterilised							1	

(h) **Meat and Other Foods**

(i) **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES**—Ten privately owned slaughter-houses are in use throughout the district and are situated in Consett, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge. Two thousand and seventy-three visits were made for the purposes of post mortem and ante mortem inspection, and 100% inspection of all dressed carcasses was obtained. Details of carcasses and their organs which were condemned are given in Appendix H.

Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposal is arranged by a by-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

(ii) **FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME**—Two of the Public Health Inspectors are Certifying Officers for the grading of pigs under this scheme and three slaughter-houses which have been approved by the Ministry are used as dead-weight certification centres. Four hundred and forty pigs were graded and certified throughout the year.

Altogether 6,836 animals were slaughtered during the year.

	Animals slaughtered from Collecting Centres	Animals slaughtered as Casualties
Bulls	3	—
Bullocks	538	1
Cows	14	—
Heifers	965	1
Calves	26	—
Sheep	3,516	16
Pigs	1,754	2
Totals	6,816	20

(iii) **Food found to be unfit for human consumption :—**

396 tins Fruit	7 jars Sandwich Paste
198 „ Tomatoes	2 „ Jam
169 „ Vegetables	1 jar Honey
127 „ Meat	1 „ Peanut Butter
74 „ Milk	1 pkt. Rusk
43 „ Soup	397½ lbs. Cooked Ham
31 „ Creamed Rice	173½ „ Bacon
27 „ Fish	60 „ Pork Sausage
22 „ Sandwich Paste	35 „ Meat
19 „ Corned Beef	28 „ Frozen Eggs
15 „ Ham	28 „ Frozen Albumen
4 „ Cream	5 „ Corned Beef
2 „ Golden Syrup	3 „ Biscuits
1 tin Tomato Juice	84 Eggs
1 „ Coffee and Chicory	26 Fish Cakes
15 jars Pickles	

(i) **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Amendment Act, 1954**

There were 41 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

(j) **Market Square**

Saturday is the main trading day with some 30 stalls in use, the number being slightly increased during the summer months. During weekdays, a greengrocery, a confectionery and a provision stall are sited for trading purposes.

V. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 242 cases of notifiable diseases during the year as compared with 895 in 1955 ; the difference in these figures was due to a large measles epidemic which occurred at the beginning of 1955.

For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

Communicable Diseases in Hospitals

Each Consultant has been designated Medical Officer for his own Department so far as the control of infection is concerned, and the Medical Advisory Committee acts as the Control of Infection Committee.

During the year all infectious diseases needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases reported during the year 1956

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year :—

Diseases	Total Number of Cases Notified	Total Number of Cases Confirmed	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	6	—	—
Whooping Cough	148	148	—	—
Measles	24	24	—	—
Pneumonia	13	13	—	—*
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	3	2	—
Dysentery	11	30	—	—
Food Poisoning	46	16	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	1	1	—
Totals	252	242	3	—

* Notified Cases.

Scarlet Fever. There were 6 cases notified compared with 14 last year. This, however, is no indication of the incidence of the causative organism in the community.

The infections were mild in type, none were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Measles. Only 24 cases of this disease were notified there being very few susceptibles left after the previous year's epidemic.

Whooping Cough. One hundred and forty-eight cases were notified throughout the area. A number of vaccines have been found to be beneficial in preventing or reducing the severity of this disease and since it is potentially dangerous, particularly to young infants, General Practitioners in the area are immunising increasing numbers of selected children.

Diphtheria. No cases of this disease were notified. The last case in the district occurred in 1952 and the last death in 1943. It is, however, still important to ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. Unfortunately the percentage of those immunised under one year is low. At the end of 1956 only 44.6% of children under five years of age had received the necessary injections within the last four years and only 52.3% of school children could be considered to have adequate immunity. The accumulating numbers of susceptibles will therefore be exposed to considerable risk should an epidemic occur.

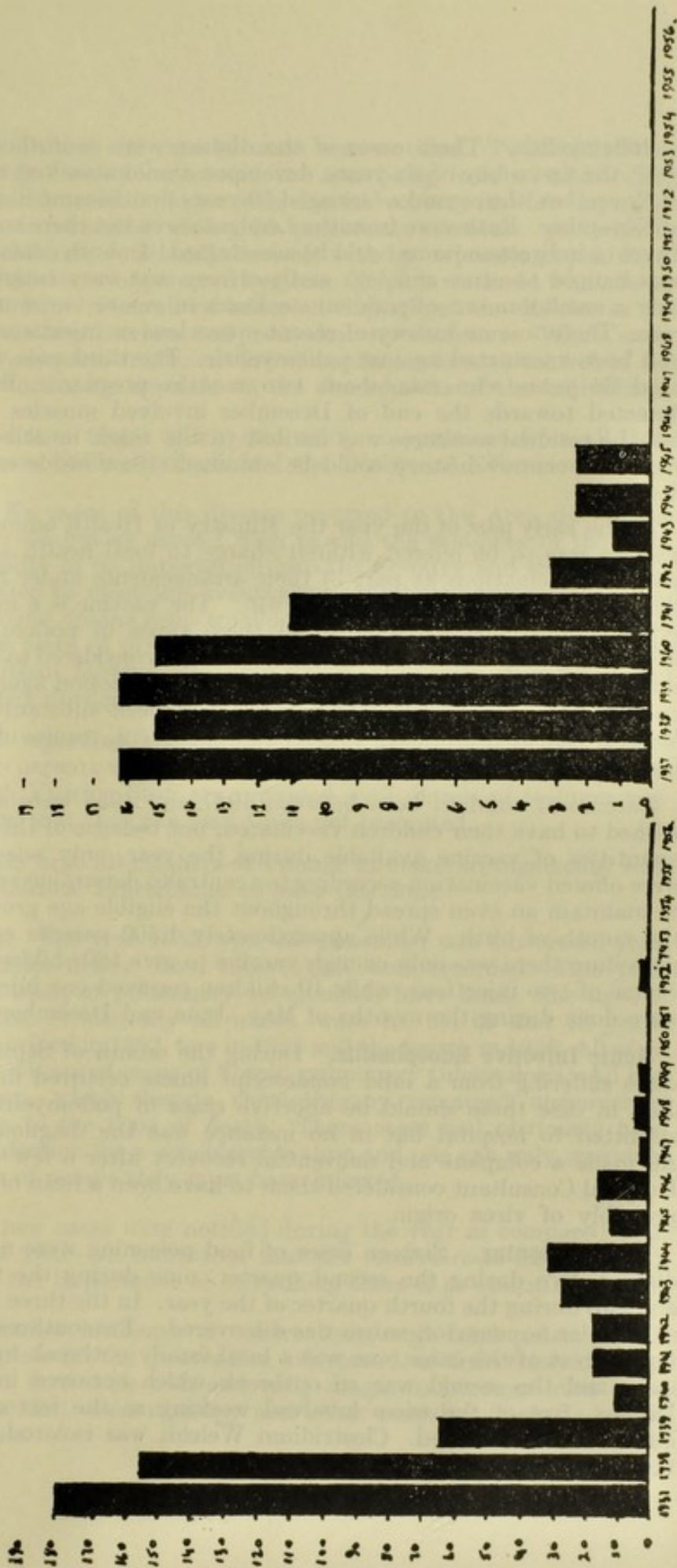
The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows :—

Primary Injections	...	...	...	383
Boosters...	...	...	...	206

Number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria since 1937 are as follows:—

					No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1937	...	...	...	...	180	15
1938	...	...	...	...	154	14
1939	...	...	...	...	73	11
1940	...	...	...	...	10	3
1941	...	...	...	...	18	1
1942	...	...	...	...	18	2
1943	...	...	...	...	29	2
1944	...	...	...	...	33	—
1945	...	...	...	...	13	—
1946	...	...	...	...	14	—
1947	...	...	...	...	1	—
1948	...	...	...	...	2	—
1949	...	...	...	...	1	—
1950	...	...	...	...	—	—
1951	...	...	...	...	—	—
1952	...	...	...	...	1	—
1953	...	...	...	...	—	—
1954	...	...	...	...	—	—
1955	...	...	...	...	—	—
1956	...	...	...	...	—	—

NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA SINCE THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESENT URBAN DISTRICT



Poliomyelitis. Three cases of the disease were confirmed during the year, the first a boy of six years, developed a mild attack at the beginning of November, the second a boy aged 10 years first became ill in the middle of November. Both were from the Leadgate area but there was no contact direct or indirect so far as could be ascertained. In both cases the paralysis was limited to arms and legs and recovery was very satisfactory, with only a small amount of residual weakness in one or two muscles in each case. There was no history of recent operations or injections and neither had been vaccinated against poliomyelitis. The third case was a woman aged 36 years who was about two months pregnant. Paralysis first detected towards the end of December involved muscles in both legs but the residual weakness was limited to the thigh muscles of one leg. Again no contact history could be obtained either inside or outside the district.

In the early part of the year the Ministry of Health announced that a vaccine was to be offered without charge to local health authorities to provide vaccinations as part of their arrangements under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The vaccine is a modified Salk-type for immunisation against all three types of poliomyelitis virus. After being subjected to exhaustive tests it was considered to be absolutely safe and was expected to confer a degree of protection against paralytic poliomyelitis, conclusions which have since been substantiated by the Medical Research Council's controlled experiment, results of which have been published in their recent report.

Parents of children born between 1947 and 1954 were asked if they wished to have their children vaccinated, but because of the very limited quantities of vaccine available during the year, only selected children were offered vaccination according to a centrally determined plan designed to maintain an even spread throughout the eligible age groups based on the month of birth. While approximately 1,500 parents agreed to this procedure there was only enough vaccine to give 180 children a complete course of two injections, while 10 children received one injection. These were done during the months of May, June and December.

Acute Infective Encephalitis. During the month of September, seven cases suffering from a mild nondescript illness occurred in the district. Just in case these should be abortive cases of poliomyelitis they were admitted to hospital but in no instance was the diagnosis confirmed. All made a complete and uneventful recovery after a few days and the Hospital Consultant considered them to have been a form of encephalitis, probably of virus origin.

Food Poisoning. Sixteen cases of food poisoning were notified in the district, five during the second quarter, nine during the third quarter and two during the fourth quarter of the year. In the three isolated cases of infection no causal organism was discovered. Two outbreaks accounted for the rest of the cases, one was a local family outbreak involving eight cases and the second was an outbreak which occurred in the Stanley District, five of the cases involved working at the factory where the infection had occurred. *Clostridium Welchii* was isolated from four of the five latter cases.

Dysentery. During the year 30 cases were notified. Twenty-six were involved in eight family outbreaks, the rest being isolated cases. The disease was usually mild in nature with clinical recovery in a few days, but the difficulty experienced with odd persistent excreters, particularly among schoolchildren, could only be dealt with by impressing upon those affected the importance of personal hygiene. There is no doubt whatsoever that there is a large reservoir of infection throughout the district in the form of symptomless carriers and convalescent excreters. While early diagnosis and adequate treatment are of course necessary, control of the disease in a community depends on the clean habits of the individuals.

We have had at all times willing and ready co-operation from all General Practitioners, Staffs of schools and the Divisional Education Officer.

Smallpox. No cases of this disease occurred in the Area during the year under review but as usual I wish to add the reminder of the ever-present possibility of its importation into the Country and the necessity of being prepared to meet this eventuality. While the value of vaccination in preventing deaths from smallpox has long been well established, the acceptance rates of primary vaccination of those under one year in the Consett Urban District was only 23.3% (179 were vaccinated and 33 re-vaccinated during 1956).

A pamphlet regarding vaccination is sent from the County Health Department to parents when their children attain the age of three months and the Health Visiting Staff are provided with details of children vaccinated in order that they can visit those not protected.

I would again urge all mothers of infants to make arrangements with their General Medical Practitioner to have this done.

Tuberculosis. The year 1955, you will remember was our record year, in that only three deaths from tuberculosis were recorded. This year, however, four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have died. The ages of these four cases, incidentally all males, were 45, 63, 66 and 78 years. One was first notified in 1952, two in 1953 and the fourth in 1956. All when first seen were advanced cases of fibroid pulmonary tuberculosis. All had positive sputum, which despite chemotherapy remained unconverted to negative up to the time of death. These cases had obviously been reservoirs of infection for a considerable time and one can only speculate on the number of people they must have infected.

Thirty-four new cases were notified during the year as compared with twenty-six last year—an indication that the reservoirs of infection still exist and that the importance of controlling them is as essential as ever.

With the smaller incidence of tuberculosis, well tried public health measures adopted in the prevention of spread of infectious diseases generally, come into their own and early diagnosis becomes even more important now that chemotherapy and other remedial methods are so readily available.

All the milk retailed in the area is now either heat treated in such a way that the tubercle bacilli are killed, or comes from herds that are free from this infection. It therefore remains for us to induce every inhabitant to be X-rayed annually and to supplement this with the control of reservoirs of infection and see that susceptible children and adults are protected with B.C.G. vaccination.

1. Statistics

					Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a) No. of new cases notified during the year :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	12	2	14
Females ...	...	...	...	...	17	3	20
Totals...	...	...	...	...	<u>29</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>34</u>
(b) No. of deaths registered :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Females ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	<u>4</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4</u>
(c) No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	193	93	286
Females ...	...	...	...	...	208	82	290
Totals...	...	...	...	...	<u>401</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>576</u>

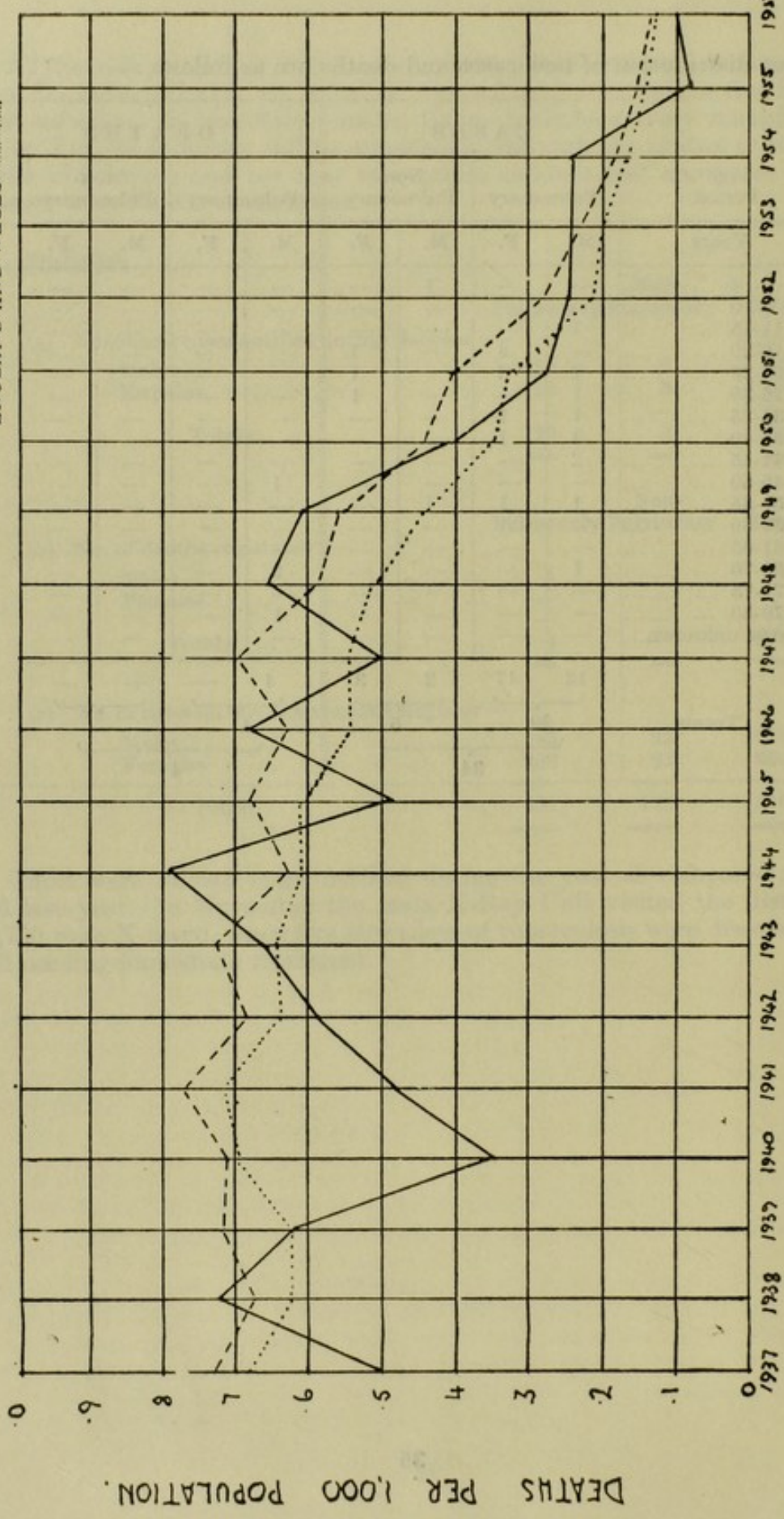
There were 34 new cases notified during the year as compared with 26 last year. In November the mass X-Ray Unit visited the district, 2,730 were X-rayed, when five new cases of tuberculosis were discovered, all needing immediate treatment.

Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows :—

Age Period	C A S E S				D E A T H S			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-20 ...	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
21-25 ...	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
26-30 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31-35 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40 ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-50 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
51-55 ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
56-60 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
61-65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66-70 ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
71-75 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76-80 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	17	2	3	4	—	—	—
	29		5		4		—	
	34				4			

CONSETT U. D. ———
 DURHAM COUNTY - - - -
 ENGLAND AND WALES ·····

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY RATES 1937 - 1956.



YEAR.

Tuberculosis Services in the Area

(i) At the Chest Clinic at Villa Real, there are special sessions for contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis, new and old cases and for artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum refills.

During the year 199 contacts were skin tested, 63 found to be tuberculin negative and 56 were vaccinated with B.C.G.

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are in the main admitted to Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole or Wolsingham Sanatorium. During the year 35 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for hospital treatment.

(iii) There were 576 patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year. Most newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are now registered by the Ministry of Labour and National Service as disabled persons and before being allowed to return to work, the patient is assessed at the clinic, and if appropriate a course of industrial rehabilitation at the Felling Unit is arranged by the Disablement Resettlement Officer, after which in most cases suitable employment is found. All these patients are regularly supervised, a very close co-operation existing between the D.R.O. and the Chest Physician. During the year one patient attended the industrial rehabilitation unit and two were re-trained for new jobs.

(iv) After-care responsibility rests entirely with the Durham County Council, all day to day administration being carried out centrally. Nursing requisites are stored in Durham.

(v) Five new Council houses have been allocated to potentially infectious Tuberculosis cases who were living in overcrowded circumstances.

VI. ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, ETC., 1956

The Surveyor and Engineer has kindly provided me with the following information:—

Month (1956)	Rainfall in ins.		No. of days rain fell		Heaviest Daily Fall	
	West- wood	Crook- hall	West- wood	Crook- hall	Ins.	Date
January	3.57	3.23	21	21	.54	14th
February	2.81	2.53	22	22	.33	20th
March ... ..	.87	.92	14	14	.19	20th
April	1.06	1.17	10	8	.54	10th
May ... ..	.83	.75	11	10	.40	17th
June	3.46	3.89	18	16	.80	7th
July	2.85	2.62	13	13	.84	14th
August	8.04	7.80	24	24	1.10	27th
September	3.31	2.96	13	11	.91	2nd
October	1.70	1.64	14	13	.46	19th
November ... ..	.63	.75	14	14	.16	13th
December	2.70	2.42	22	20	.46	23rd
	31.83	30.50	196	186	—	—

The heaviest daily rainfall of 1956 was on 27th August, when 1.10 inches of rain fell, and the wettest month was August when 8.04 inches of rain fell, the heaviest monthly rainfall in our records since 1928.

The total hours of sunshine recorded by the Forestry Commission at Chopwell for 1956 was 1,224 hours as compared with 1,533 hours during 1955.

No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infan- tile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Deaths	Neo- Natal Death Rate	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Poli- myeli- tis	Bowel Complaints			Tuber- culosis	
															Dysentery	Enteric	Food Poisoning	Pul.	Non Pul.
1937	37,280	448	12.0	677	18.1	48	70.9	—	—	—	147	—	180	—	3	—	—	29	24
1938	37,340	435	11.5	670	17.9	36	53.7	—	—	—	169	—	154	—	19	1	—	23	26
1939	37,420	453	12.1	705	18.8	51	72.3	—	—	6	54	34	73	—	—	3	—	35	14
1940	37,040	469	12.6	676	18.2	40	59.1	—	—	1,243	28	196	10	—	—	47	—	25	14
1941	37,040	409	11.0	639	17.2	42	66.9	—	—	376	47	120	18	—	—	—	—	26	13
1942	36,210	433	11.9	671	18.5	40	59.6	—	—	299	83	75	18	2	—	—	—	17	22
1943	35,320	432	12.2	602	17.0	28	46.5	—	—	291	62	72	29	—	—	—	—	31	12
1944	35,050	434	12.0	732	20.8	32	43.0	—	—	306	15	65	33	1	—	—	—	45	32
1945	35,310	435	12.3	694	19.6	34	48.9	—	—	117	48	11	13	—	—	1	—	34	20
1946	36,760	415	11.2	751	20.4	30	39.5	—	—	218	41	108	14	—	—	—	—	33	14
1947	37,040	415	11.2	780	21.0	28	35.8	—	—	385	64	29	1	7	—	—	—	43	16
1948	38,820	417	10.7	737	18.9	41	55.6	—	—	522	111	104	2	—	5	—	—	53	19
1949	38,900	463	11.9	708	18.2	29	40.9	17	24.01	142	52	19	1	—	—	—	—	40	9
1950	39,130	482	12.3	684	17.4	30	43.8	15	23.39	375	59	212	—	2	3	—	1	79	12
1951	39,020	435	11.1	659	16.8	23	34.9	17	25.79	740	24	85	—	—	5	—	1	62	14
1952	38,840	427	10.9	647	16.6	17	26.2	10	15.45	281	61	143	1	2	21	—	1	39	8
1953	38,740	413	10.6	650	16.7	20	30.76	10	15.38	332	45	244	—	2	13	—	255	32	8
1954	38,830	477	12.2	587	15.1	19	32.3	11	18.7	114	15	130	—	4	64	—	32	27	11
1955	38,770	419	10.8	627	16.1	19	30.3	12	19.1	771	14	23	—	—	33	—	23	21	5
1956	38,770	430	11.0	596	15.3	18	30.2	13	21.8	24	16	148	—	3	30	—	16	29	5

APPENDIX B
ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Name of Disease	Under 1 Year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and Over		Age not Known		Totals		
	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	
Scarlet Fever									1	1	3	3	2	2																6	6
Whooping Cough ...	15	15	16	16	17	17	29	29	15	15	31	31	23	23	1	1			1	1										148	148
Measles ...	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	9	9	5	5					1	1	4	4								24	24
Pneumonia																		1	1	4	4									13	13
Meningococcal Infection																				1	1									1	1
Dysentery ...	1	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	4	2	2	1	3					—	4	1	5	3	5	1	2				11	30
Food Poisoning			2	1	2	—	2	—	4	1	2	2	6	1				5	1	13	7	6	2	4	1					46	16
Acute Poliomyelitis													2	2								—	1							2	3
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)																					1	1								1	1
	18	18	20	20	23	23	33	31	22	22	47	47	39	36	1	1	6	6	21	19	9	8	12	10	1	1				252	242

APPENDIX C

DETAILS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

Location of Sewage Disposal Works	Type of Treatment	Area Drained	No. of Properties Draining to Works (approx.)		Population (Approx.) for which Designed	Existing Population (Approx.)
			Houses	Bldgs.		
Westwood	Percolating Filter Treatment	Grove, Moorside, Consett; part of Castleside (Lanchester R.D.C.); Blackhill, Derwent Cottages, Medomsley, Shotley Bridge, Ebchester Allendale and Hamsterley Colliery.	7,985	293	28,700	26,350
Crookhall	do.	Part of Consett, Crookhall, part of Leadgate	1,487	43	5,500	4,896
Pont Burn	do.	Part of Leadgate, Bradley Cottages, Pont	1,369	32	4,550	4,517
Knitsley	do.	Delves, Knitsley and part of Templetown	783	9	1,500	2,583

APPENDIX D

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
I. No. of Properties in Local Authority's District	35	11,381	69	1,466	12,951
II. No. of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956, as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	4	77	—	20	101
(b) Otherwise ...	30	324	33	848	1,235
III. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	3	50	—	18	71
IV. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	5	35	—	12	52
V. No. of Infested Properties (under III and IV) treated by Local Authority ...	8	85	—	27	120
VI. No. of informal notices served under Section 4 :—					
(1) Treatment ...	—	15	—	—	15
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing) ...	2	33	—	30	65
VII. No. of visits made by Local Authority during treatment and inspection of Properties	101	827	33	462	1,423

APPENDIX E
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS

Date of Sewer Campaign	No. of Manholes treated	Showing Signs of infestation	No infestation
April, 1956	249	64	185
September, 1956	255	37	218
Test-baiting September, 1956	167	8	159
Sewage Works and Buildings treated in conjunction with Sewer Campaign		Showing signs of infestation	
April, 1956			
Pont		—	
Knitsley		Minor	
Crookhall		Minor	
Ebchester		—	
Hamsterley Pump House		—	
September, 1956			
Pont		—	
Knitsley		Minor	
Crookhall		—	
Ebchester		Minor	
Hamsterley Pump House		—	

APPENDIX F
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	22	22	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	100	174	3	Nil
Total	122	196	3	Nil

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences : Unsuitable or Defective	3	2	—	2	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	2	Nil	2	Nil

APPENDIX G

Premises	Structural		Cleansing and Re-decoration		Water Closets		W. C. Notices		Lack of Refuse Containers		Drainage		Wash-up Sinks		Wash-hand Basins		Towels, Nailbrush and Soap		Clothing Accommodation		First Aid Equipment		Hot Water on Retail Vans		Constant Hot Water		Food Exposure		Visits	
	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A
Bakehouses	1	—	4	4	—	—	2	2	2	2	—	—	1	1	4	4	5	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	58	—
Food Manufacturers	—	—	14	14	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	1	1	3	3	—	—	12	11	2	2	—	—	189	—
Fried Fish Shops and Wet Fish Shops	7	7	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	2	—	—	74	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	48	—
Caterers and Snack Bars	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	—
Grocers and General Dealers	13	9	13	10	1	1	7	6	4	4	—	—	—	—	5	3	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	—	8	7	13	13	329	—
Confectioners	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	1	1	—	—	3	3	2	1	2	2	47	—
Greengrocers	3	3	6	4	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	4	1	1	2	2	31	—
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses	2	1	9	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	29	—
Poultry Preparation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Total	27	21	52	45	4	4	13	12	9	8	6	5	2	2	19	14	17	17	11	11	16	11	24	23	17	13	17	17	866	—

*S—Notices Served

A—Notices Abated

Notices Served 234

Defects Remedied 203

APPENDIX H

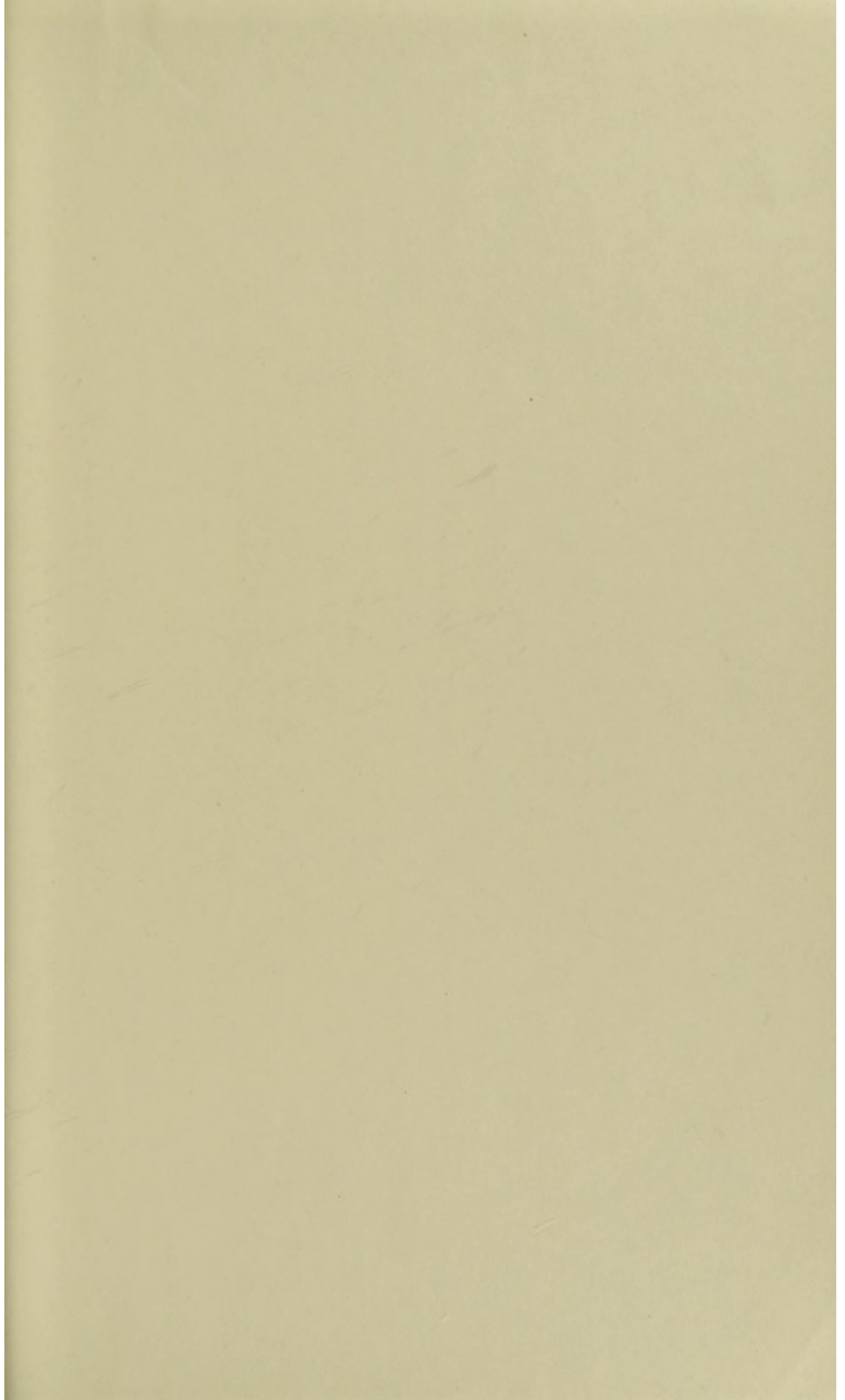
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

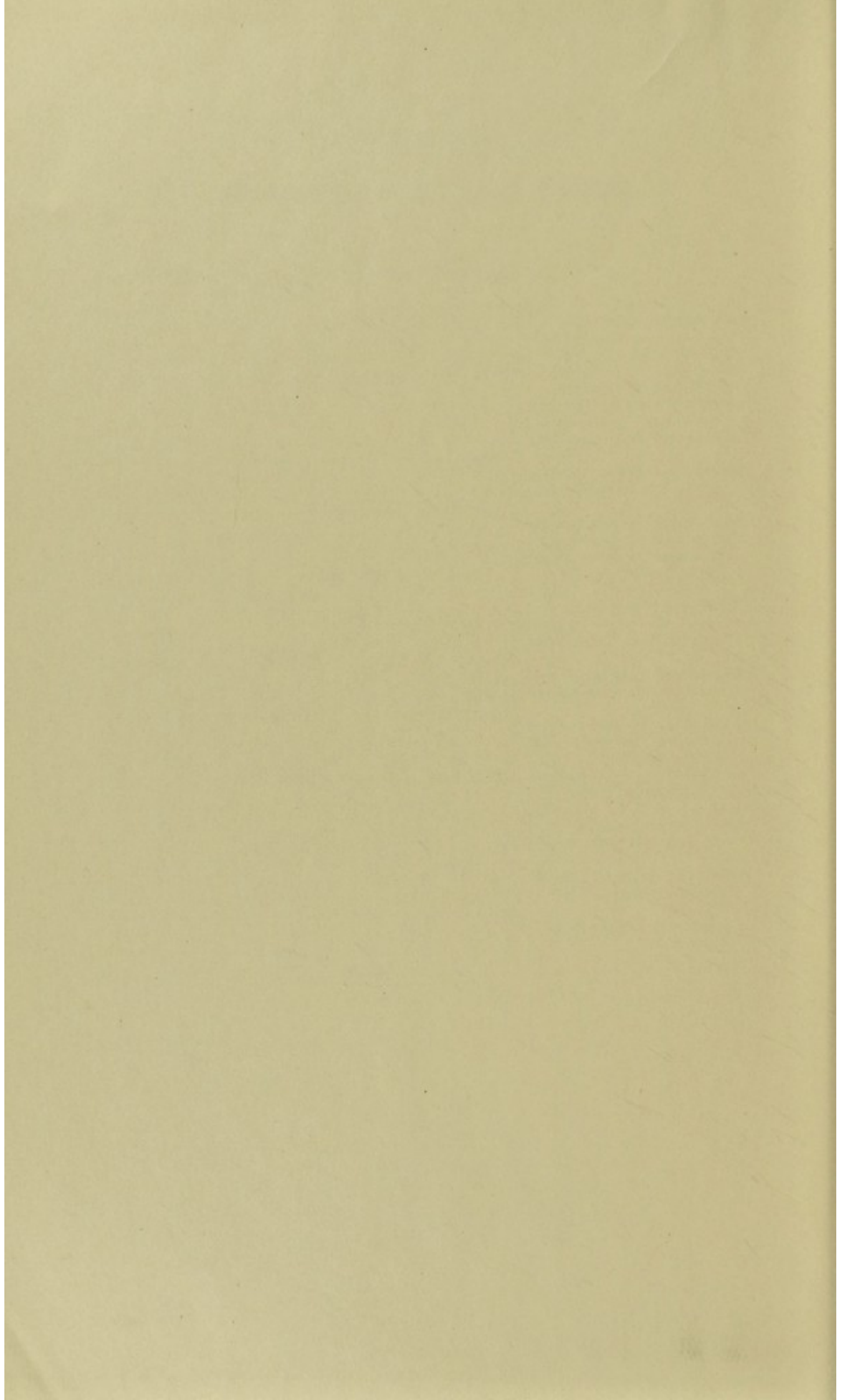
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	1,508	14	26	3,532	1,756	—
No. Inspected ...	1,508	14	26	3,532	1,756	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole Carcases Condemned	—	1	1	3	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was Condemned...	120	1	—	14	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci ...	7.96	1.42	.39	.48	.85	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcases Condemned	4	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	75	1	—	—	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5.25	.78	—	—	.79	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

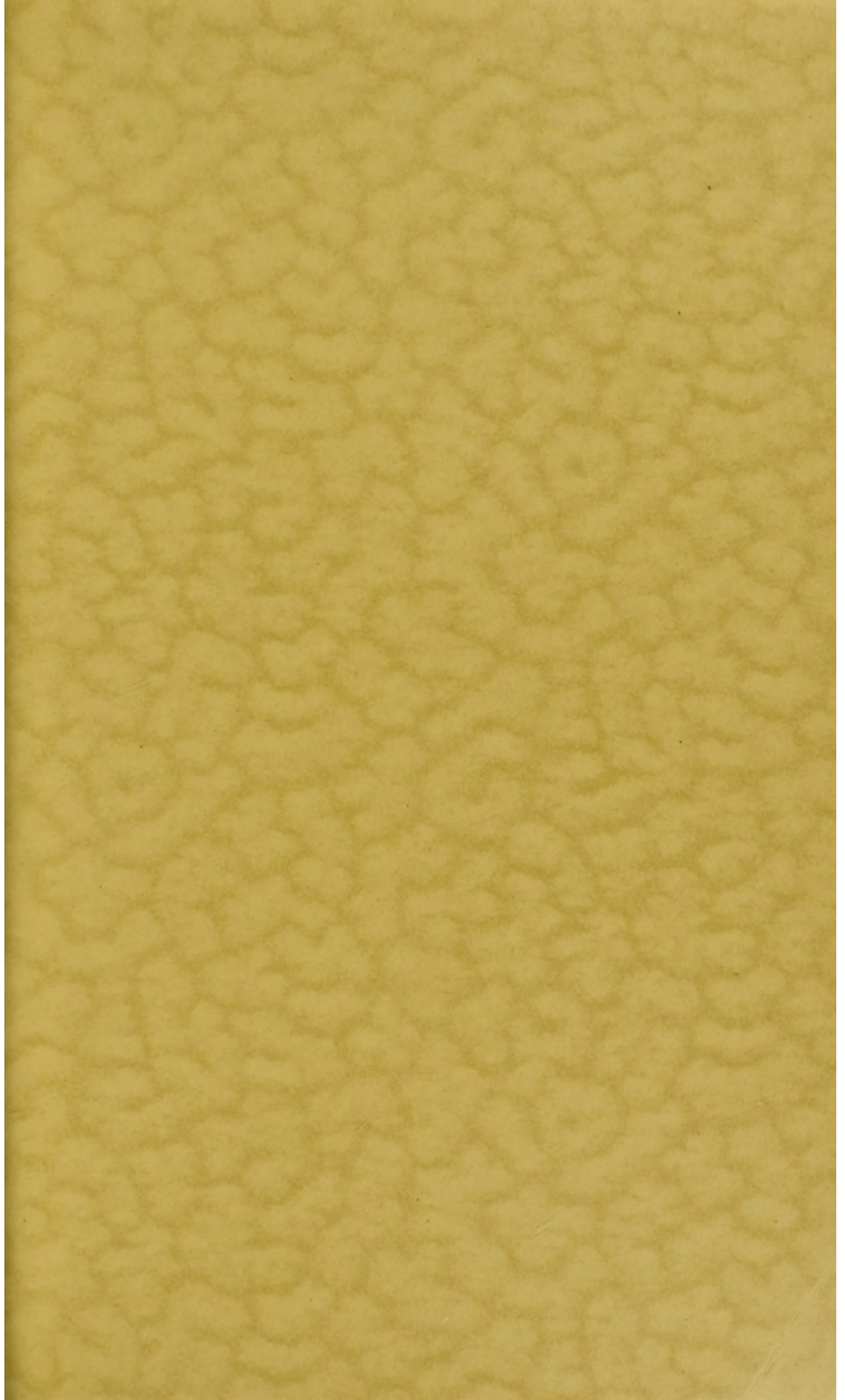
APPENDIX B

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDIGNED

Year	Month	Day	No. of Carcasses	Condition	Remarks
1900	Jan	1	1	Good	
1900	Jan	2	1	Good	
1900	Jan	3	1	Good	
1900	Jan	4	1	Good	
1900	Jan	5	1	Good	
1900	Jan	6	1	Good	
1900	Jan	7	1	Good	
1900	Jan	8	1	Good	
1900	Jan	9	1	Good	
1900	Jan	10	1	Good	
1900	Jan	11	1	Good	
1900	Jan	12	1	Good	
1900	Jan	13	1	Good	
1900	Jan	14	1	Good	
1900	Jan	15	1	Good	
1900	Jan	16	1	Good	
1900	Jan	17	1	Good	
1900	Jan	18	1	Good	
1900	Jan	19	1	Good	
1900	Jan	20	1	Good	
1900	Jan	21	1	Good	
1900	Jan	22	1	Good	
1900	Jan	23	1	Good	
1900	Jan	24	1	Good	
1900	Jan	25	1	Good	
1900	Jan	26	1	Good	
1900	Jan	27	1	Good	
1900	Jan	28	1	Good	
1900	Jan	29	1	Good	
1900	Jan	30	1	Good	
1900	Jan	31	1	Good	







Wm. Dresser & Sons, Ltd., Crown Street, Darlington